

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07961 221424Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
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R 220937Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1717
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7961

BOMBAY 1238 FOLLOWS. SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 22 MAY 78
BEING RPT FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 1238RR

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ENGR, TECH, PINT, IN
SUBJ: TARAPUR FUEL SUPPLY

1. ON MAY 20, THE UNION FINANCE MINISTER H.M. PATEL IN A SPEECH
BEFORE THE BOMBAY CHAPTER OF THE INDO-AMERICAN SOCIETY SAID THAT
THE LEADERSHIP OF INDIA AND THE US ARE DETERMINED THAT THE
DIFFERENCES OVER THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR TARAPUR WILL
NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF
CLOSER AND MORE EFFECTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE TEXT OF PATEL'S SPEECH
BUT WAS APWARENTLY ADDED BECAUSE SO MANSAOF HIS AUDIENCE
HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT TARAPUR IN A 15 MINUTE "GET"
TOGETHER" BEFORE THE SPEECH. PATEL'S SPEECH WAS A VERY FRIENDLY
RESUME OF 500 YEARS OF INDO-AMERICAN INTERACTION. HE
STRESSED THAT RELATIONS WERE NEVER BETTER AND THAT THE CARTER
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AND DESAI ADMINISTRATIONS WERE DETERMINED TO KEEP THEM
ON THEPATH OF IMPROVEMENT IN SPITE OF ISSUES LIKE TARAPUR.
THE MINISTER ALSO NOTED THAT MANY ISSUES BECOME
EXAGGERATED BEYOND THEIR REAL IMPORTANCE BECAUSE OFFICIALS
AND THE PRESS CALL THEM SENSITIVE SO OFTEN THAT EVERYONE
COMES TO BELIEVE THEY REALLY ARE SENSITIVE.

2. PATEL SPOKE BEFORE AN INVITED AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 500 WHICH INCLUDED MANY OF THE LEADERS OF BOMBAY'S BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITIES. A NUMBER OF HIS AUDIENCE COMMENTED TO THE CONSUL GENERAL IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD THAT PATEL'S POSITION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN BECAUSE THE POWER SHORTAGE IS ALREADY SO ACUTE IN BOMBAY THAT A FURTHER CUTBACK OF 400 MEGAWATTS IN WEST INDIA WOULD BE NEARLY CATASTROPHIC FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE CITY. HOWEVER, IN THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED THE SPEECH NONE OF THE AUDIENCE DIRECTLY CHALLENGED THE MINISTER'S POINT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR TARAPUR. SEVERAL ASKED WHAT STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION AND THEY WERE SATISFIED THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS DO INDEED RECOGNIZE THIS AS A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND ONE WHICH MERITS AND IS RECEIVING CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION.
COURTNEY

UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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